



Moontown Airport News

September/October 2009

By George Myers

Annual Grass Field fly-in

Our fall fly-in was not unlike every other event that we have planned or participated in this year. Rain all around and spotty rain at Moontown all weekend but the show went on pretty much as planned. The parking areas were mowed and rolled, the signs were up, the PA system was setup and the vendors were in place. We had four planes arrive on Friday, one from Lebanon, TN and the others from Madison County. There was one additional plane each on Saturday and Sunday. Despite the rain, numerous locals drove in for the Young Eagle flights, biplane rides, breakfast and the evening banquet. NASA had a great display including a movie theater for our visitors.



Fly-in crowd watch a Stearman formation fly-by

We had plenty of Yak and Stearman fly-bys on Saturday and were joined by a couple of Piper Cub Specials and Cessna 140's on Sunday. We had a shortage of Young Eagle pilots and planes. Bryan Tauchen, Jeff Spencer, John Frerichs and an additional plane from MDQ car-

ried the load on Saturday. Rain kept John and the MDQ plane away on Sunday. I jumped in with the Yak to take two CAP cadets for rides and by the time I was ready to pull the Mooney out, Bryan and Jeff finished the last flights



Bryan Tauchen demonstrates airplane pre-flight inspection to Young Eagles.



Yaks start in unison to begin a formation demonstration. Pilots are Alan Cockrell, Steve Brown, Pete VanStaagan, and Gordie Seuell



One of many Yak formation fly-bys

The CAP cadets from Huntsville did a great job of crowd control both days. They looked sharp, were dependable and seemed to enjoy their involvement. We heard many complements about their professionalism.



CAP Cadets enjoying Henry Oldham's piano performance for the banquet. Henry volunteered his time

Ninety plus people attended the banquet. Mike Durant, the Blackhawk Down survivor, was our guest speaker. By the time Mike began his presentation, the crowd swelled to well over 100.



Book sale and signing by Mike Durant

A lot of planning went into the event over a six-month period and the team did a great job. Members of the planning and activity team included; Joe Baldauf, Jerry Barnett, Lisa Brunegruff, Alan Cockrell, Charles Cozelos, John Freichs, Don Gamble, William Good, Mike Guthrie, Jim Harchanko, Howard Hefelfinger, Jimmy Holt, Paul Jacobs, Wayne Johnson, Blake Mathis, Doug McDaniel, Ed McWhiney, Jon Moore,

Jennifer Morcone, Gordon Seuell, Jeff Spencer, Aaron Stanfield, and Bryan Tauchen. Without these volunteers, there would be no fall fly-in. Perhaps the weather will be more favorable next year.



Two Stearman aircraft from Always Aviation at Moontown and Chris Davis from Lebanon, TN provided rides for hire at the fly-in

Improved Patio

EAA Chapter 190 members are expanding the patio in front of the EAA kitchen and clubhouse. This improvement includes the addition of a sunshade and more picnic tables. These improvements will provide additional table spaces for the fly-in breakfasts and also provide a shaded area for visitors and pilots alike. Jim Harchanko provided the plans for the sunshield and is leading the team in its construction.



EAA members building the patio sunshade

B-17 Comes to Huntsville

EAA Chapter 190 and some Moontown pilots supported the visit of EAA's B-17, "Aluminum Overcast", to Huntsville. We originally planned to use the International Airport but ran into security issues. We were welcomed with open arms at Madison County Executive Airport. As usual for this year, we had rain that delayed the plane's arrival and impacted the number of flights that could be conducted. Weather allowed flights on Tuesday but not on Wednesday. The plane departed for Olive Branch, MS on Thursday in IFR conditions.



The "Aluminum Overcast" taxis past static display planes from Moontown. Stearman biplane rides were also available

This was the second time that EAA Chapter 190 has sponsored the B-17 in Huntsville.

Moontowners

There have been and are several people at Moontown that I can call on for help with various projects. I want to recognize the contributions of Jim Harchanko. Jim joined the EAA Chapter 190 about 10 years ago and has been a constant contributor to the airport and the EAA. Jim has served as chapter president and led the construction of the EAA kitchen/club house. He demolished an old, decrepit T-hangar that he had purchased and constructed a much larger, modern hangar in its place. He has con-

structed two kit planes: a beautiful RV-7A and a RANS. Jim is currently leading the improvements to the airport lounge patio. Besides all that, he has been a weekly participant at the airport even though he has had a medical problem that has impacted his flight physical. Moontown Airport grounds have been greatly improved over the years because of volunteers like Jim. We all owe Jim a great big thank you for his contributions to Moontown Airport improvement and EAA support. THANK YOU JIM HARCHANKO.



Jim Harchanko, blue cap, serving as a guide tour volunteer for the B-17

Moontown Christmas Potluck Dinner

Saturday, December 12, 2009

5:30 pm until

Bring your favorite food

William Good and Charles Cozelos contributed the photographs included in this newsletter.